

AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
Late Revolution  
IN  
NEW-ENGLAND.

Together with the  
DECLARATION  
OF THE

Gentlemen, Merchants, and Inhabitants of BOSTON,  
and the Country adjacent. April 18. 1689.

Written by M<sup>r</sup>. NATHANAEL BIFFIELD,  
a Merchant of *Bristol* in *New-England*, to his Friends  
in *London*.

LICENSED, June 27. 1689. J. Frazer.

LONDON:

Printed for W<sup>ill</sup>. Chiswell, at the *Rose and Crown* in  
*St. Paul's Church-Yard*. MDC LXXXIX.

AN  
ACCOUNT

OF THE  
Late Revolution

IN  
NEW-ENGLAND.

Together with the  
DECLARATION  
OF THE

Continental Congress, and Declaration of Boston  
and the Congress of the United States, Nov. 18. 1776.

Written by DR. NATHANIEL BEECHER  
a Minister of Christ in New-England, to his friends  
in London.

LICENCED, June 27. 1789.

LONDON:

Printed for J. G. Smith, at the Red and Green in  
St. Pauls Church-Yard, MDCCXXXIX.

AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF  
The Late REVOLUTION  
IN  
NEW-ENGLAND.

Written by Mr. Nathanael Byfield, to his Friends, &c.

GENTLEMEN,  
HERE being an opportunity of sending for  
London, by a Vessel that loaded at Long-Island,  
and for want of a Wind put in here; and not  
knowing that there will be the like from this  
Country suddenly, I am willing to give you some brief  
Account of the most remarkable things that have hap-  
ned here within this Fortnight last past; concluding  
that till about that time, you will have received per  
Carter, a full Account of the management of Affairs  
here. Upon the Eighteenth Instant, about Eight of the  
Clock in the Morning, in Boston, it was reported at  
the South end of the Town, That at the North end  
they were all in Arms; and the like Report was at the  
North end; respecting the South end: Whereupon  
Captain John George was immediately seized, and about  
nine of the clock the Drums beat thorough the Town;

and

A 2

*An Account of the late*

and an Ensign was set up upon the Beacon. Then Mr. Bradstreet, Mr. Dantforth, Major Richards, Dr. Cooke, and Mr. Addington Esq. were brought to the Council-house by a Company of Soldiers under the Command of Captain *Will.* The mean while the People in Arms, did take up and put into Goal, Justice Bullivant, Justice Foxcroft, Mr. Randall, Sheriff Sherlock, Captain Ravenscroft, Captain White, Farewel, Broadbent, Crafford, Larkin, Smith, and many more, as also *Mercey* the then Goal-keeper, and put *Scates* the Bricklayer in his place. About Noon, in the Gallery at the Council-house, was read the Declaration here inclosed. Then a Message was sent to the Fort to Sir Edmund Andross, By Mr. Oliver and Mr. Eyres, signed by the Gentlemen then in the Council-Chamber, (which is here also inclosed); to inform him how unsafe he was like to be if he did not deliver up himself, and Fort and Government forthwith, which he was loath to do. By this time, being about two of the Clock (the Lecture being put by) the Town was generally in Arms, and so many of the Countrey came in, that there was Twenty Companies in Boston, besides a great many that appeared at Charles Town that could not get over (some say Fifteen Hundred). There then came Information to the Soldiers, That a Boat was come from the Frigate that made towards the Fort, which made them haste thither, and come to the Sconce soon after the Boat got thither; and 'tis said that Governor Andross, and about half a score Gentlemen, were coming down out of the Fort; but the Boat being seized, wherein were small Arms, Hand-Gransadoes, and a quantity of Match, the Governour and the rest went in again; whereupon Mr. John Nelson, who was at the head of the Soldiers, did demand the Fort and the Governor,

## Revolution in New-England.

5.

vernor, who was loath to submit to them; but at length did come down, and was with the Gentlemen that were with him, conveyed to the Council-house, where Mr. *Bradstreet* and the rest of the Gentlemen waited to receive him; to whom Mr. *Stoughton* first spake, telling him, He might thank himself for the present disaster that had befallen him, &c. He was then confined for that night to Mr. *John Usher's* house under strong Guards, and the next day conveyed to the Fort, (where he yet remains, and with him Lieutenant Colonel *Ledger*) which is under the Command of Mr. *John Nelson*; and at the Castle, which is under the Command of Mr. *John Fairweather*, is Mr. *West*, Mr. *Graham*, Mr. *Palmer*, and Captain *Tryfroye*. At that time Mr. *Dudley* was out upon the Circuit, and was holding a Court at *Southold* on *Long-Island*. And on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Instant he arrived at *Newport*, where he heard the News. The next day Letters came to him, advising him not to come home; he thereupon went over privately to Major *Smith's* at *Naragansett*, and advice is this day come hither, that yesterday about a dozen young men, most of their own heads, went thither to demand him; and are gone with him down to *Boston*. We have also advice, that on *Fryday* last towards evening, Sir *Edmond Andross* did attempt to make an escape in *Womans* Apparel, and pass'd two Guards, and was stopped at the third, being discovered by his Shoes, not having changed them. We are here ready to blame you sometimes, that we have not to this day received advice concerning the great Changes in *England*, and in particular how it is like to fair with us here; who do hope and believe that all these things will work for our Good; and that you will not be wanting to promote the Good of a Country that stands in such need

as

as New England does at this day. The first day of May, according to former Usage, is the Election-day at Road Island; and many do say they intend their choice there then. I have not farther to trouble you with at present, but recommending you, and all our affairs with you, to the Direction and Blessing of our most Gracious God: I remain

Gentlemen,

Your Most Humble Servant at Command,

**NATHANAEL BIFIELD.**

Bristol, April 29.  
1689.

Through the Goodness of God, there  
hath been no Blood shed. Nath.  
Clark is in Plymouth Gaol,  
and John Smith in Gaol here,  
all waiting for News from Eng-  
land.

**THE**



THE  
DECLARATION  
OF THE

Gentlemen, Merchants, and Inhabitants of *BOSTON*,  
and the Country Adjacent. *April 18. 1689.*

§ 1. **W**E have seen more than a de-  
cad of Years rolled away,  
since the *English* World had  
the Discovery of an horrid *Popish Plot*; where-  
in the bloody *Devotees* of *Rome* had in their  
Design and Prospect no less than the extinction  
of the *Protestant Religion*: which mighty Work  
they called the utter subduing of a *Pestilent Here-  
sy*; wherein (they said) there never were such  
hopes of Success since the Death of *Queen Ma-  
ry*; as now in our days. And we were of all men  
the most insensible, if we should apprehend a  
Countrey so remarkable for the true Profession  
and pure Exercise of the *Protestant Religion* as  
*New-England* is, wholly unconcerned in the In-  
famous.

famous Plot. To crush and break a Countrey so entirely and signally made up of *Reformed Churches*, and at length to involve it in the miseries of an utter Extirpation, must needs carry even a Supererogation of merit with it among such as were intoxicated with a Bigotry inspired into them by the great *Scarlet Whore*.

§. II. To get us within the reach of the desolation desired for us, it was no improper thing that we should first have our *Charter* Vacated, and the hedge which kept us from the wild Beasts of the field, effectually broken down. The accomplishment of this was hastened by the unwearied solicitations, and slanderous accusations of a man, for his *Malice* and *Falshood*, well known unto us all. Our *Charter* was with a most injurious pretence (and scarce that) of Law, condemned before it was possible for us to appear at *Westminster* in the legal defence of it; and without a fair leave to answer for our selves, concerning the Crimes falsely laid to our charge, we were put under a *President* and *Council*, without any liberty for an Assembly, which the other *American Plantations* have, by a *Commission* from His Majesty.

§. III. The



S. III. The Commission was at first at for the form of it, as the way of obtaining it was *Milicious* and *unreasonable*; yet we made no Resistance thereto as we could easily have done; but chose to give all *Mankind* a Demonstration of our being a people sufficiently dutiful and loyal to our King: and this with yet more Satisfaction, because we took pains to make our selves believe as much as ever we could of the Whedle then offer'd unto us; That his *Majesty's* desire was no other than the happy encrease and advance of these *Provinces* by their more immediate Dependance on the *Crown of England*. And we were convinced of it by the courses immediately taken to damp and spoyle our *Trading* whereof decayes and complaints presently filled all the Country; while in the meantime neither the Honour nor the Treasure of the King was at all advanced by this new Modell of our Affairs, but a considerable Charge added unto the Crown.

S. IV. In little more than half a Year we saw this Commission superseded by another yet more Absolute and Arbitrary; with which Sir *Edmond Andros* arrived as our Governour who besides his Power, with the Advice and

Consent of his Council, to make Laws and raise Taxes as he pleased; had also Authority by himself to Muster and Employ all Persons residing in the Territory as occasion shall serve; and to transfer such Forces to any English Plantation in America, as occasion shall require. And several Companies of Souldiers were now brought from Europe, to support what was to be imposed upon us, not without repeated Menaces that some hundreds more were intended for us.

§. V. The Government was no sooner in these Hands, but care was taken to load Preferments principally upon such Men as were strangers to, and barters of the People; and every ones Observation hath noted, what Qualifications recommended a Man to publick Offices and Employments; only here and there a good Man was used, where others could not easily be had; the Governour himself, with Assertions now and then falling from him, made us jealous that it would be thought for his Majesties Interest, if this People were removed and another settled in their room. And his far fetch'd Instruments that were growing rich among us, would gravely inform us, that it was not for his

Majesties Interest that we should thrive. But of all our Oppressors we were chiefly squeezed by a crew of abject Persons, fetched from New-York to be the Tools of the Adversary, standing at our right hand; by these were extraordinary and intolerable Fees extorted from every one upon all occasions, without any Rules but those of their own insatiable Avarice and Beggary; and even the probate of a Will must now cost as many Pounds perhaps as it did Shillings heretofore; nor could a small Volume contain the other illegalities done by these Horse-leeches in the two or three Years that they have been sucking of us; and what Laws they made it was as impossible for us to know, as dangerous for us to break; but we shall leave the Men of Sp/rit and of Plainness (among others) to tell the story of the kindness which has been shown them upon this account. Doubtless a Land so ruled as once New-England was, has not without many tears and sighs beheld the wicked walking on every side, and the vilest Men exalted.

It would not  
be fair to  
say that they  
were not  
fairly pub-  
lished.

§. VI. It was now plainly affirmed, both by some in open Council, and by the same in private conference, that the people in New-England were all Slaves, and the only difference between them

and Slaves is their not being bought and sold; and it was a maxim delivered in open Court unto us by one of the Council, that we must not think the Privileges of English-men would follow us to the end of the World: Accordingly we have been treated with multiplied contradictions to *Magna Charta*, the rights of which we laid claim unto. Persons who did but peaceably object against the raising of Taxes without an Assembly, have been for it fined, some twenty, some thirty, and others fifty Pounds. Packs and pickt juries have been very common things among us, when, under a pretended form of Law, the trouble of some honest and worthy Men has been aimed at: but when some of this Gang have been brought upon the Stage, for the most detestable Enormities that ever the Sun beheld, all Men have with Admirati- on seen what methods have been taken that they might not be treated according to their Crimes. Without a Verdict, yea, without a Jury sometimes have People been fined most un- righteously; and some not of the meanest Quality have been kept in long and close Im- prisonment without any the least Information appearing against them, on an *Habeas Corpus*

allowed unto them. In short, when our Oppressors have been a little put of Money, 'twas but pretending some Offence to be enquired into, and the most innocent of Men were continually put into no small Expence to answer the Demands of the Officers, who must have Money of them, or a Prison for them, tho none could accuse them of any Misdemeanour.

§. VII. To plunge the poor People every where into deeper Incapacities, there was one very comprehensive Abuse given to us; Multitudes of pious and sober Men through the Land, scrupled the Mode of Swearing on the Book, desiring that they might Swear with an uplifted Hand, agreeable to the ancient Custom of the Colony; and though we think we can prove that the Common Law amongst us (as well as in some other places under the *English Crown*) not only indulges, but even commands and enjoins the Rite of lifting the Hand in Swearing; yet they that had this Doubt, were still put by from serving upon any Juries; and many of them were most unaccountably Fined and Imprisoned. Thus one Grievance is a *Trojan Horse*, in the Belly of which it is not easy to recount how many insufferable Vexations have been contained.

§. VIII.



and Sir William Berkeley these things could not make  
 us miserable fast enough; there was a notable  
 Discovery made of what was in  
 all our Titles to our Lands; and, tho' besides our  
 purchase of them from the Natives, and besides  
 our actual peaceable unquestioned possession of  
 them for near three score Years, and besides the  
 Promise of K. Charles II. in his Proclamation  
 sent over to us in the Year 1681. That no Man  
 there shall receive any Prejudice in his Freehold or  
 Estate; We had the Grant of our Lands, under  
 the Seal of the Council of Pennsylvania: which Grant  
 was Renewed and Confirmed unto us by King  
 Charles II. under the Great Seal of England; and  
 the General Court which consisted of the Paten-  
 tees and their Associates, had made particular  
 Grants thereof to the several Towns (though  
 it was now deny'd by the Governour, that there  
 was any such Thing as a Town) among us, to all  
 which Grants the General Court annexed for the  
 further securing of them, A General Act, pub-  
 lished under the Seal of the Colony, in the Year  
 1684. Yet we were every day told, That no Man  
 was owner of a Piece of Land in all the Colony;  
 Accordingly, Wrists of Injustice began every where  
 to be served on People, that after all their Sweat



and their Cost upon their formerly purchased Lands, thought themselves *Freeholders* of what they had. And the Governor caused the Lands pertaining to these and those particular *Men*, to be measured out to his Creatures to take possession of; and the *Right Owners*, for pulling up the Stakes, have passed through *Molestation* enough to rive all the pacified in the World. They are more than a few, that were by *Terrors* driven to take *Patents* for their Lands at excessive rates, to save them from the heat that might position for them: and we fear that the forcing of the People at the *Bay* and hereunto, gave too much Rise to the late unhappy Invasion made by the *Indians* on them. *Black Patents* were so got, that for the rest of us, to be sold at a Price, that all the Money and Moveables in the Territory could scarce have paid. And several Towns in the Country had their *Commons* bogged by Persons (even by some of the Council themselves) who have been privately encouraged thereto, by those that sought for Occasions to impoverish a Land already *Poverty* stricken and *Travelling* down. We have now a civil

Lo: 1. All the Council were not engaged in these ill Actions, but those of them which were true

their Houses, of their Country, were sold out, admitted to, and seldome consulted in the Debates which produced these unrighteous Things: Care was taken to keep them under Disadvantages, and the Governor, with five or six more, did what they would. We bore all these, and many more such Things, without making any attempt for any Relief: only Mr. Mather, purely out of respect unto the Good of his Afflicted Country, undertook a Voyage into England, which when these Men suspected him to be preparing for, they used all manner of Craft and Rage, not only to interrupt his Voyage, but to ruin his Person too. God having through many Difficulties given him to arrive at Whitehall, the King, more than once or twice, promised him a certain Magna Charta for a speedy Redress of many things which we were groaning under: and in the mean time said, That our Governor should be written unto, to forbear the Measures that he was upon. However, after this, we were injured in those very Things which were complained of, and besides what Wrong hath been done in our Civil Concerns, we suppose the Ministers, and the Church, every where have set out Sacred Concerns apace, going after them: How they have

have been Discontentanced, has had a room in the reflections of every man, that is not a stranger in our *Tract*.

¶ X. And yet that our Callings might not be terminated here, we are again Driv'd in the Perplexities of another *Indian War*; how, or why, is a mystery too deep for us to unfold. And tho' tis judged that our *Indian* Enemies are not above 100. in number, yet an Army of *One thousand* English hath been raised for the Conquering of them; which Army of our poor Friends and Brethren now under *Papish* Commanders, for in the Army as well as in the Council, *Papists* are in Commission, has been under such a conduct, that not one *Indian* hath been kill'd, but more English are supposed to have died through sickness and hardship, than we have adversaries there alive; and the whole War hath been so managed, that we cannot but suspect in it, a branch of the Plot to bring us low, which we leave to be further enquir'd into in due time.

¶ XI. We did nothing against these Proceedings, but only cry to our God; they have caus'd the cry of the Poor to come unto him, and he hears

the cry of the Afflicted. We have been quiet hitherto, and so still we should have been, had not the Great God at this time laid us under a double engagement to do something for our security: besides what we have in the strangely unanimous inclination, which our Countrymen by extreamest necessities are driven unto. For first, we are informed that the rest of the English America is Alarmed with just and great fears, that they may be attacked by the French, who have lately (tis said) already treated many of the English with worse then Turkish Cruelties; and while we are in equal danger of being surprised by them, it is high time we should be better guarded, than we are like to be while the Government remains in the hands by which it hath been held of late. Moreover, we have understood, (though the Governour has taken all imaginable care to keep us all ignorant thereof) that the Almighty God hath been pleased to prosper the noble undertaking of the Prince of Orange, to preserve the three Kingdoms from the horrible brinks of Popery and Slavery, and to bring to a Condisign punishment those worst of men, by whom English Liberties have been destroy'd: in compliance with which

Glorious

Glorious Action, we ought surely to follow the Patterns which the Nobility, Gentry and Commonalty in several parts of those Kingdoms have set before us, though they therein chiefly proposed to prevent what we already endure.

¶ XII. We do therefore seize upon the Persons of those few *Ill men* which have been (next to our Sins) the grand Authors of our Miseries; resolving to secure them, for what Justice, Orders from his Highness, with the *English Parliament* shall direct, lest, ere we are aware, we find (what we may fear, being on all sides in danger) our selves to be by them given away to a Foreign Power, before such Orders can reach unto us; for which Orders we now humbly wait. In the meantime firmly believing, that we have endeavoured nothing but what meer Duty to God and our Country calls for at our Hands: We commit our *Enterprise* unto the Blessing of Him, who bears the cry of the Oppressed, and advise all our Neighbours, for whom we have thus ventured our selves, to joyn with us in Prayers and all just Actions, for the Defence of the Land.

---

Printed according to the Copy Printed in New-England  
by Samuel Green. 1689.







